

(A)

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/829,462	GILISSEN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit

Vivian Nelson 2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 6 January 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 19-34.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Responsive to communication filed on 6 January 2006.

DETAILED ACTION

Rejoinder

1. Upon reconsideration, the requirement for restriction filed on 5 August 2005 is hereby withdrawn. Claims 1-8 directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Official Gazette notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 O.G. 86), claims 9-18, directed to the process of making or using the patentable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are now subject to being rejoined. Claims 9-18 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) including all the limitations of an allowable product claim or rejoined process claim is presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claim(s) may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears as attached. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Emily T. Bell on 25 January 2006.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miyajima et al. (US #6 320 649) shows a base stage system for a lithographic apparatus, which has an open hollow structure. In particular, see Figs 2 and 8.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Nelson whose telephone number is 571.272.8552. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571.272.2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



vhn
26 January 2006

William Perkey
Primary Examiner

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A carrier constructed to carry a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, said carrier comprising:
 - a first member provided with an open hollow structure that is open to at least one side of said first member, said first member constructed to support a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device; and
 - a second member connected to said first member, such that a closed hollow internal structure is formed between said first and second members.
2. (Original) A carrier according to claim 1, wherein said second member has an open, hollow structure which together with said open hollow structure of said first member forms said closed internal structure of said carrier.
3. (Original) A carrier according to claim 2, wherein said open, hollow structure of said first and second members includes a plurality of spaced apart ribs.
4. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to claim 1, further comprising:
a third member positioned between said first and second member members, said third member having an open, hollow structure, that is open to two opposite sides thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to claim 4, wherein said third member includes a plurality of spaced apart interior walls in said open, hollow structure.
6. (Original) A carrier according to claim 3, wherein said open, hollow structure of said first and second members includes an additional plate positioned against said ribs.

7. (Original) A carrier according to claim 1, wherein said first and second members of said carrier are made of different materials, of which at least one is chosen from a group consisting of glass, carbon and ceramics.

8. (Original) A lithographic apparatus comprising:
a radiation system constructed to provide a beam of radiation;
a support structure constructed to support a patterning device, said patterning device serving to impart a cross-section of said beam with a pattern to form a patterned beam; and
a projection system that projects said patterned beam onto a target portion of a substrate, wherein said apparatus further includes a table constructed to hold said substrate or said patterning device, said table including a carrier constructed to carry a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, said carrier including
a first member provided with an open hollow structure that is open to at least one side of said first member, said first member constructed to support a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device; and
a second member connected to said first member, such that a closed hollow internal structure is formed between said first and second members.

Claims 9 – 18 (Cancelled).

19. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second member has an open, hollow structure which together with said open hollow structure of said first member forms said closed internal structure of said carrier.

20. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said open, hollow structure of said first and second members includes a plurality of spaced apart ribs.

21. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said open, hollow structure of said first and second members includes an additional plate positioned against said ribs.

22. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said carrier further includes a third member positioned between said first and second members, said third member having an open, hollow structure, that is open to two opposite sides thereof.

23. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said third member includes a plurality of spaced apart interior walls in said open, hollow structure.

24. (New) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first and second members of said carrier are made of different materials, of which at least one is chosen from a group consisting of glass, carbon and ceramics.

25 (NEW) A method for making a carrier for carrying a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, the method comprising:

providing at least two members, one of the at least two members being constructed to support a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device; and

connecting the at least two members to each other to form a carrier, where the at least two members are formed in such a way that the carrier comprises a substantially closed, hollow internal structure.

26 (NEW) A method according to claim 25, further comprising:
forming the at least two members by a milling technique.

27 (NEW) A method according to claim 25, further comprising:
providing at least one of the at least two members with means for holding the substrate or the patterning device.

28 (NEW) A method according to claim 25, wherein:
forming the carrier includes providing a mirror on at least one side of the carrier, the mirror being arranged to be used in combination with a position determining unit.

29 (NEW) ²⁵ A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

forming a hollow structure in a third member in such a way that the third member comprises a first and a second open side,

attaching the first member to the first open side of the third member and attaching the second member to the second open side of the third member in such a way that the carrier comprises a substantially closed, hollow internal structure.

30 (NEW) ²⁹ A method according to claim 13, comprising

forming a hollow structure in the first and the second member in such a way that the first and second member have one open side,

attaching the open side of the first member to the first open side of the third member and attaching the open side of the second member to the second open side of the third member in such a way that the carrier comprises a substantially closed, hollow internal structure.

31 (NEW) ²⁵ A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

providing an additional plate; and

positioning the addition plate in between the first and third member or the second and third member.

32 (NEW) ²⁵ A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

forming the hollow structure in the third member using an extrusion technique or a water jet cutting technique.

33 (NEW) ²⁵ A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

forming openings in the carrier.

34 (NEW) ²⁵ A method according to claim 9, wherein

the at least two members forming the carrier are joined by anodic bonding.